



## **Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Dorinne Jordan, Chair  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Carl Gallucci, Vice-Chair  
4<sup>th</sup> District  
Louisa Ollague  
1<sup>st</sup> District  
Genie Chough  
3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Lori Glasgow  
5<sup>th</sup> District

June 18, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

### **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

#### **SUBJECT**

Request to extend the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families to September 30, 2017.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

Approve the introduction of an ordinance extending the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families (Commission) to September 30, 2017.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

At its meeting held March 28, 2013 the Los Angeles County Audit Committee considered and approved the attached recommendations of the Auditor-Controller.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) established and has continued the Commission pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.68. The Board approved the most recent sunset review date extension in September 2006.

The Commission's duties are as follows:

- Monitor, evaluate, and report to the Board on the implementation of Board-adopted recommendations for improving the delivery of children's services, and when necessary, recommend changes to ensure compliance with the adopted recommendations;

- Review County programs that provide services for children at risk;
- Receive input from community groups and individuals concerning County children's service programs;
- Review and make recommendations to the Board regarding children's services legislation;
- Make recommendations to the Board and various department heads to improve children's services; and
- Report to the Board annually concerning the status of children's services, and make recommendations for improvement.

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Participating in the Prevention Workgroup (Workgroup) to provide oversight to the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP), to reduce child abuse and neglect by utilizing community-based prevention networks. The Workgroup contributed to eight Board-approved contracts to evaluate the management of child abuse and neglect prevention strategies through PIDP agencies and community-based organizations.
- Advising DCFS to conduct a study to identify factors contributing to the increased rate of children re-entering foster care after family reunification. The study identified issues that DCFS should address to improve the family reunification process.
- Recommending strategies to the Board to address childhood obesity. As a result, the Board directed the Chief Executive Office to develop a Child Wellness Policy (Policy). The Policy, later approved by the Board, identified ways to enhance information on nutrition and physical activity for parents, caregivers, and County staff; ensuring nutritional guidelines for children in out-of-home care and child care settings are followed; and providing public education and training.
- Collaborating with DCFS, the Department of Public Health, the City of Pasadena, and First 5 LA to host six Community Wellness and Healthy Lifestyles trainings for relative caregivers. The trainings educated participants about healthy lifestyles, and ways to improve diet and physical activities.
- Serving on an oversight committee to monitor the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act spending plan for transitional age youth (TAY) (individuals from 16 to 25 years old). The committee worked with the Department of Mental Health to address issues including the funding disparity for the TAY population, limited housing, and staffing support.
- Participating with numerous governmental and planning agencies to coordinate efforts to improve services for children and families.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The Commission has 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. The Commission meets at least monthly and commissioners are compensated \$25 per meeting, not to exceed 24 meetings per year. The Executive Office of the Board estimates that they spent approximately \$147,439 for Commission staff support, stipends, service/supplies, and parking passes during Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Commission met 59 times between January 2009 to December 2011 (approximately 20 times per year), with an average attendance of 11.3 (75%) members.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to work towards integrating services among

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

6/18/2013

Page 3

County departments, and provide continuous care for children and families. The Commission will focus on areas such as preventive measures, family reunification, TAY population, mental health services for children and families, training, and research development.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dorinne Jordan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DORINNE JORDAN

Chair

DJ:ld

Enclosures

c: Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors  
Auditor-Controller  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Director, Department of Children and Family  
Services  
Chief, Commission Services  
Chair, Commission for Children and Families




**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

March 4, 2013

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller 

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION  
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families' (Commission) sunset review date to September 30, 2017.

**BACKGROUND**

The Board established and has continued the Commission pursuant to County Code Chapter 3.68. The Board approved the most recent sunset review date extension in September 2006.

The Commission's duties are as follows:

- Monitor, evaluate, and report to the Board on the implementation of Board-adopted recommendations for improving the delivery of children's services, and when necessary, recommend changes to ensure compliance with the adopted recommendations.
- Review County programs that provide services for children at risk.
- Receive input from community groups and individuals concerning County children's services programs.

- Review and make recommendations to the Board regarding children's services legislation.
- Make recommendations to the Board and various department heads to improve children's services.
- Report to the Board annually concerning the status of children's services, and make recommendations for improvement.

The Commission has 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. The Commission meets at least monthly, and commissioners receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed 24 meetings per year. The Executive Office of the Board estimates that they spent approximately \$147,439 for Commission staff support, stipends, services/supplies, and parking passes during Fiscal Year 2010-11.

#### **JUSTIFICATION**

From January 2009 to December 2011, the Commission met 59 times (approximately 20 times per year) with an average attendance of 11.3 (75%) members.

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Participating in the Prevention Workgroup (Workgroup) to provide oversight to the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP), to reduce child abuse and neglect by utilizing community-based prevention networks. The Workgroup contributed to eight Board-approved contracts to evaluate the management of child abuse and neglect prevention strategies through PIDP agencies and community-based organizations.
- Advising DCFS to conduct a study to identify factors contributing to the increased rate of children re-entering foster care after family reunification. The study identified issues that DCFS should address to improve the family reunification process.
- Recommending strategies to the Board to address childhood obesity. As a result, the Board directed the Chief Executive Office to develop a Child Wellness Policy (Policy). The Policy, later approved by the Board, identified ways to enhance information on nutrition and physical activity for parents, caregivers, and County staff; ensuring nutritional guidelines for children in out-of-home care and child care settings are followed; and providing public education and training.
- Collaborating with DCFS, the Department of Public Health, the City of Pasadena, and First 5 LA to host six Community Wellness and Healthy Lifestyles trainings



for relative caregivers. The trainings educated participants about healthy lifestyles, and ways to improve diet and physical activities.

- Serving on an oversight committee to monitor the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act spending plan for transitional age youth (TAY) (individuals from 16 to 25 years old). The committee worked with the Department of Mental Health to address issues including the funding disparity for the TAY population, limited housing, and staffing support.
- Participating with numerous governmental and planning agencies to coordinate efforts to improve services for children and families.

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to work towards integrating services among County departments, and provide continuous care for children and families. The Commission will focus on areas such as preventive measures, family reunification, TAY population, mental health services for children and families, training, and research development.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Smythe at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:JLS:RS:TK

Attachment

c: Geneva Berger, Chair, Commission for Children and Families  
Philip L. Browning, Director, Department of Children and Family Services  
Angie Johnson, Chief, Commission Services

**COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**  
**REVIEW COMMENTS**

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' (Board) purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the Board order creating the Commission for Children and Families (Commission). **CONCUR.**

**Section 1. Relevance.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board's purpose and expectations?)

The Commission reviews County department programs that provide services for children and families at risk; receives input from the community concerning child welfare services; and makes recommendations to the Board and various department heads to improve services for children and families.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission is required to meet at least once a month. Between January 2009 and December 2011, the Commission met 59 times with an average attendance of 11.3 (75%) members.

The Commission's meeting frequency and attendance are **SATISFACTORY.**

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During this evaluation period, the Commission's accomplishments included the following:

- Participating in the Prevention Workgroup (Workgroup) to provide oversight to the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP), to reduce child abuse and neglect by utilizing community-based prevention networks. The Workgroup contributed to eight Board-approved contracts to evaluate the management of child abuse and neglect prevention strategies through PIDP agencies and community-based organizations.
- Advising DCFS to conduct a study to identify factors contributing to the increased rate of children re-entering foster care after family reunification. The study identified issues that DCFS should address to improve the family reunification process.



- Recommending strategies to the Board to address childhood obesity. As a result, the Board directed the Chief Executive Office to develop a Policy. The Policy, later approved by the Board, identified ways to enhance information on nutrition and physical activity for parents, caregivers, and County staff; ensuring nutritional guidelines for children in out-of-home care and child care settings are followed; and providing public education and training.
- Collaborating with DCFS, Department of Public Health, the City of Pasadena, and First 5 LA to host six Community Wellness and Healthy Lifestyles trainings for relative caregivers. The trainings educated participants about healthy lifestyles, and ways to improve diet and physical activities.
- Serving on an oversight committee to monitor the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act spending plan for transitional age youth (TAY). The committee worked with the Department of Mental Health to address issues including the funding disparity for the TAY population, limited housing, and staffing support.
- Participating with numerous governmental and planning agencies to coordinate efforts to improve services for children and families.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to integrate services among County departments, and provide continuous care for children and families. The Commission will focus on areas such as preventive measures, family reunification, TAY population, mental health services for children and families, training, and research development.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commissioners receive \$25 for each meeting attended, not to exceed 24 meetings per year. The Executive Office of the Board estimates that they spent approximately \$147,439 for Commission staff support, stipends, services/supplies, and parking passes in Fiscal Year 2010-11.

The Commission's expenses appear to be **WARRANTED**.

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017.**